

STRATEGIC FOCUS

CDC has provided technical assistance (TA) to Papua New Guinea (PNG) since 2007 through a cooperative agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO), the National Department of Health (NDoH), and other partners. The CDC-PNG office was established in 2012 and continues to provide TA and support to increase capacity and health system strengthening to impact the PNG HIV epidemic.

Strengthening Surveillance and Health Information Systems: CDC builds in-country capacity to design, implement and evaluate HIV/AIDS surveillance systems and improve national health information systems to collect, store, analyze and use high-quality data essential to HIV prevention, care and treatment.

Strengthening Health Systems: CDC partners with the NDoH and WHO for laboratory International Organization for Standardization (ISO) accreditation to improve HIV related testing, the roll out of clinic quality improvement to improve HIV care and treatment, the adoption and rollout of national HIV guidelines, and strengthening of organizational governance and management systems by building staff capacity.

Strengthening Laboratory Systems: CDC provides TA to Central Public Health Laboratory (CPHL) of the NDoH to increase HIV related testing capacity and improve test quality, timeliness and reporting. Laboratory priorities include quality assurance for rapid HIV testing and other related HIV testing, ensuring accurate results are provided to clients, and developing strategies for PNG scale-up of viral load testing.

Building Sustainable, Country-owned Programs - HIV Care and Treatment Quality Improvement (QI): CDC uses HIVQUAL to improve the quality of HIV care and treatment services through monitoring of quality indicators and implementing QI projects. In partnership with WHO and the NDoH, HIVQUAL has expanded from a four hospital pilot to multiple HIV Treatment Centers, including non-governmental organizations throughout PNG.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Field Epidemiology Training (FET): In collaboration with CDC, WHO and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the NDoH provides the annual four course FETPNG, which uses intensive mentoring and includes intervention projects that have already saved over 200 lives. The NDoH considers the FETPNG its best program. It has trained 52 field epidemiologists working in the NDoH, provinces and districts providing new leadership in HIV and other disease surveillance, program monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and disease control activities. About 50% of research projects and interventions of the FET fellows are associated with HIV, TB and STI disease surveillance and control in their provinces and PNG. By 2018, the FETPNG is planned to be fully funded and facilitated by the NDoH.

HIV Quality Improvement (HIVQUAL): The HIVQUAL program best fits the needs of resource-limited countries like PNG. It has been accepted as the standard for measuring and raising the quality of HIV patient care and treatment. Four regional medical officers have been trained, who have piloted HIVQUAL at their sites and are now the local trainers to roll out HIVQUAL in other centers. In the National Capital District, HIVQUAL activities have scaled up with some focus on reducing lost to follow up cases using HIVQUAL indicators. The program training is now funded and led by NDoH.

Key Country Leadership

Prime Minister:
Peter O'Neill

Minister of Health:
Michael Malabag

U.S. Ambassador:
Catherine Ebert-Gray

CDC/DGHT Director:
Steven Terrell-Perica

Country Quick Facts

Per Capita GNI:
\$2,240 (2014)

Population:
7.619 Million (2015)

Under 5 Mortality:
57/1,000 live births (2015)

Life Expectancy:
63 years (2014)

Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic

Estimated HIV Prevalence
(Ages 15-49): 0.8% (2015)

Estimated AIDS Deaths
(Age ≥15): <1,000 (2015)

Estimated Orphans Due to
AIDS: 12,000 (2015)

Reported Number
Receiving Antiretroviral
Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15):
20,028 (2015)

Global Tuberculosis (TB) Epidemic

TB Treatment Success
Rate: 70% (2014)

Estimated TB
Incidence:
432/100,000 (2015)

Estimated Who are HIV
Positive: 8% (2015)

Country Staff: 6

Locally Employed Staff: 5
Direct Hires: 1
Fellows & Contactors: 0